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*The Geology of New Zealand.* By JAMES PARK, Professor of Mining and Mining Geology in the University of Otago. Pp. 488, with 145 illustrations, 27 plates, and a colored geological map. London: Whitcombe & Tombs, Limited, 1910.

This new work is welcome to the geologic reader because it gives in organized, systematic, and relatively brief form a general view of the geology of a country whose geologic literature is otherwise scattered and to most geologists not readily accessible. It must also be acceptable to the teachers and students of New Zealand in that it gives them a view of geological history founded on the formational record of their own land. The work combines some of the features of a synoptic governmental report with those of a textbook. It was written originally for the Department of Mines, but only a part of it was published by the government—a fact which probably accounts for a seemingly disproportionate treatment of certain topics as compared with others, and also some lack of continuous progression under the control of a well-chosen scheme.

Detailed descriptions of the various formations comprise the first portion of the work. Each series is discussed first under the head of distribution, thickness, and age; then the faunas and floras are taken up, followed by the economic minerals and the igneous activity of the time. As might not unnaturally be expected in a country where even today the glaciers are such splendid spectacles, the Glacial Period has received much fuller treatment proportionately than the other periods. In an interesting discussion upon the excavating power of glaciers, the assertion is made that it is certain that ice can only excavate its bed when the pressure of its mass exceeds the ultimate crushing strength of the bed rock, and that the pigmy valley glaciers of today are incapable of excavating their beds. That glaciers, even those of the small valley types, may be active eroding agents seems to find much less favor with the English school of geologists than with the American.

The last portion of the book is devoted to economic geology. Naturally the greatest emphasis and fullest treatment are given to the very extensive coal fields and the important gold deposits, both of which have long attracted notice.

A very welcome feature of the book is the closing chapter, which presents a complete bibliography of the geology of New Zealand covering 56 pages. This book places the principal facts of New Zealand geology at the disposal of any geologist who reads English.

R. T. C.